TITLE: SECURITY DOOR AND FRAME CONSTRUCTION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention concerns security door and frame construction and relates to safes.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Provision for security in doors include measures such as making the door and frame resistant to attack, providing special locks and adding multiple bolts which shoot into the frame. Such measures are effective in their own way and intruders devise counter

measures as new security equipment becomes available.

EP 0665 356 A1 discloses a safe wherein the door is wider than the door opening and lies behind the door opening when closed. The door is mounted on a vertical shaft which spans the door opening and reduces the effective opening width of the door. Pins extending from the interior face of the door engage slots in a mount which pivots on the shaft and a crank turned by a handle on the exterior face of the door slides the door on the mount. As the door clears the door opening, it is free to tilt inwards into the safe. The door swings on the mount and gives access to the safe interior. This mechanism reduces access to the safe interior and still requires a conventional bolt system to prevent the door from being forced inwards. The full weight of the door is carried by the mount. The handle must displace the entire mass of the door sideways in order to clear the door opening.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention provides a security door construction comprising a door and door frame when a door is mounted on an offset hinge and the upright of the frame opposite the hinge has a slot capable of receiving the closing edge of the door, which upon closing slides into the slot and upon opening slides out of the slot.

The slot need only be shallow in that the admission of the margin of the closing edge of the door ensures a large area of engagement between door and frame and a correspondingly large force to displace the door.

The slot may be a 5-12mm metal door such as is used for a safe. The timber door slot depth may be somewhat greater. The hinge axis is not coincident with the longitudinal edge of the door as in a conventional door. The hinge is offset from the door surface. The throw of the hinge may be 15-25mm to give the required sliding entry and exit.

When the construction is used in a metal safe, the hinges may be paired conventionally but connected to the door face. The hinges may be connected to the door by a mounting member which provides the offset. The mounting member may be a tube or rod which maintains the hinge axis of the frame hinges parallel to the axis of the door hinges. The

invention also provides the feature that the door frame has a frame rail behind the top edge and bottom edges of the rear face of the door, each rail has a slot means and the corresponding area on the rear face of the door have hook means for engaging and disengaging when the door closes and opens.

The top and bottom hinges may be protected by a hinge box fixed to the face of the door.

The door may have a conventional lock with a bolt and a keeper in the door frame. Multiple sliding pin locks may be fitted, but these are not necessary due to the extensive door margin engagement of the slot.

Door and frame construction of this type is particularly applicable to small box safes of the type used to store narcotics, cash and firearms, but is able to support doors on thicker metal safes. One application is now described pertaining to gun safes.

The uprights of the frame may be box-section styles. The door slot may be in the closing style. The body of the safe may be made of a single plate panel which is formed into a channel shape, including the box-section styles braced by a top plate and a bottom plate.

The hinge mounts may be mounted on the floor and the roof of the safe and extended to the safe interior. Each hinge may be part of a flange welded to the floor and roof. The hinges are joined in order to preserve the axis of rotation of the door which would otherwise sag randomly and tilt the plane of the door preventing orderly opening and closing.

The door may be a metal plate connected by a pair of door hinges to a pair of frame hinges. Mounts for the frame hinges are located adjacent the door support style and the gap between the door and style is closed up when the door is locked.

The frame hinges and the door hinges connected thereto are preferably protected by a box extending the full length of the door. The door may be stiffened by a box brace fixed to the interior face of the door. A conventional lock may shoot a bolt into the door closing style.

In some safes and security doors, security could be improved if their operation was made fail safe. The door construction described above may be modified to fail safe by fitting a conventional door closer inside the safe and provision of a thruster which slides the door into the slot. The sliding motion must be delayed until the door is in register with the slot otherwise the door will strike the closing style and never reach the slot. The construction may have a door closer arranged to swing the door shut and a biassing assembly associated with the door capable of sliding the door into the door slot when the door closer brings the door into register with the door slot.

The biassing assembly may impart a sliding motion to the door when the door lands on the closing surface parallel to the plane of the closed door against which the door swings to close before the door reaches the door slot. In such an arrangement, the biassing assembly preferably comprises a door handle with a crank inside the door which reacts against the rod or tube extending between the frame pivots, biassing means acting between the inside of the door and the crank in order to urge the door to slide toward the door slot, a link assembly connected to the crank which restrains the biassing means from imparting such slide motion to the door and a stop extending over at least part of the doors arc of swing which releases the link assembly at the end of the arc when the door registers with the door slot.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Various embodiments are now described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a small cash safe with a door closed.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of a safe of Figure 1 with the door open.

Figure 3 is a front view of the hinge assembly of Figure 2 from direction A.

Figure 4 is an exploded view of the hinge assembly of Figure 3 after welding.

Figure 5 is a sectional plan of the safe with the door closed.

Figure 6 is a sectional plan of the safe with the door moved sideways.

Figure 7 is a sectional plan of the safe with the door opening.

Figure 8 is a sectional plan of the safe with the door fully open.

Figure 9 is a sectional plan of the safe door with the handle for opening and closing the door.

Figure 10 is a front view of a fragment of the safe showing the handle linkage to the hinge assembly.

Figure 11 is a sectional plan of a timber door and casing with the door closed.

Figure 12 is a sectional plan of the door and casing of Figure 11 with the door open.

Figure 13 is a sectional plan of an aluminium security door with the door closed.

Figure 14 is a front view of a hinge assembly for the door of Figure 13 which is also supplied as a separate component for a suitable door and casing.

Figure 15 is a front view of a triple hinge layout.

Figure 16 is a diagrammatic perspective view of a gun safe showing the hinge assembly.

Figure 17 is a front sectional view of the hinge of Figure 16.

Figure 18 is a sectional plan of a two door safe with a central pillar.

Figure 19 is a plan view of a steel plate door.

Figure 20 is a perspective partly sectioned view of the upper part of the door shown in Figure 19.

Figure 21 is a rear view of a safe containing the mechanism looking through the safe with the back removed.

Figure 22 is a plan of the safe of Figure 1 looking from Direction A.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION WITH RESPECT TO THE DRAWINGS

Referring now to the drawings, the safe body 2 is made of 2mm steel plate which is rolled into a channel section with the edges turned to form further channelled section styles 4, 6. The safe is closed by a top plate 8 and a bottom plate 10 welded to the body. The styles are therefore resistant to being forced apart by a jacking force applied between them.

The closing style 4 has three sides. The fourth side is formed by a box section steel closer 12 welded to the body and projecting beyond the closing style. The 4mm gap 14 between the closer and the style extends the full length of the 3mm steel plate door 16.

Flanges 18, 20 are inset and welded to the floor and roof. These support frame hinges 22,24. The door tilts on hinges 26, 28 which are welded at their ends to the roof and floor. The pins of the frame hinges 22,24 are joined by rod 30. The pins of the door hinges 26,28 are joined by rod 32.

The sequence of opening the door is seen in Figures 5, 6, 7 and 8. The joining of rods 30 and 32 produces a throw in the hinge of about 20mm and the door moves about half of this distance into slot 14. The lock 34 is conventional and is operated by keypad 36. Without the rigidity of the joined rods 30, 32, the door would sag and resist opening and closing. This rigidity can be achieved variously by other geometries (see Figures 14 and 16).

In Figures 3 and 4, the rods are joined by a common weld 38. In this version, the rods join the pins 38 of the frame hinges to the pins of the door hinges. In manufacture, the sequence is as follows.

The body of the safe is rolled to form the edges of the door. The top and the floor are

welded in position. The rods are welded together in a jig. The hinge collars are added and the hinge assembly is offered up to the door and welded to the door.

The door assembly is then offered up to a jig which also receives the body and then upstands 18, 20 and frame hinges are welded to the body. Hinge pockets 42 abut the upstands and are welded to the roof and floor. The door assembly is offered up to the safe opening and pockets 42 abut the upstands and are welded to the roof and floor.

Upstands 18 and 24 have slots 46 for the reception of hooks 48 which engage and disengage the slots as the door opens and closes. The hook and slot engagement is in addition to the conventional lock.

The sliding motion of the door is initiated by the person opening the safe, usually by exerting pressure on a D-handle 50 (Figures 5-8). In Figure 9, handwheel 52 turns crank 54 between stops 56 and link 58 reacts against rod 30 causing the door to slide easily to LEFT or RIGHT. Spring 60 overcomes resistance to initial movement.

In Figures 11 and 12, the upstands are not used because a timber security door has a closing style 4 and an L-section support style 6. Frame hinges 22, 24 are secured to the door casing by end plates 62 and the door hinges are screwed to the door by hinge leaves 64. Handle 50 and lock 34 are conventional.

In Figure 13, the frame hinges 22, 24 (one shown) and door hinges 26, 28 (one shown) have hinge leaves 64 which are all accommodated inside support stud 4. Support stud 4 and closing stud 6 are hollow aluminium extrusions. Lock 34 has diverging hooks which open out inside hollow stud 6.

The aluminium security door shown in Figure 13 has a hinge assembly which may be sold separately and this is shown in Figure 14. Rod 30 joins the pockets of frame hinges 22, 24 so they tilt in unison. The pockets of the hinges 22, 24 are joined to the pockets of the door hinges 26, 28 by welds 66.

In Figure 15, the throw of the hinge assembly is increased by using triple hinges welded together as sets. The door is prevented from sagging by joining the door hinges to the

door and the frame hinges by rod 30 and the intermediate hinges 68 by intermediate rod 70.

In a gun safe shown in Figure 16, the pockets of the frame hinges 22, 24 are connected to the pins of the door hinges 26, 28. The hooks 48 and slots 46 engage and disengage as in the embodiment shown in Figures 2 and 3. An ammunition box 72 leaves space for a weapon 74.

Figure 17 assists in understanding the offset motion of the door. The components which are stippled lie in one plane and behave as a unitary part in the hinge assembly in the manner of a radius arm.

When a walk-in safe is constructed as for a cigarette and alcohol store, gunrooms, armouries and the like, a conventional door 76 (Figure 18) has a longitudinal pocket 78 at the closing edge which closes to the central pillar 80 and defines a slot 82 into which the sliding door 16 projects in order to allow lock 34 to operate.

In Figures 19 and 20, steel plate door 16 has a hollow interior 84. The hinge assembly is housed in the interior, the door hinge 26 being welded to the inside of the door and the frame hinge 22 being welded to the door frame header 86 and the floor bar 88.

Door handle 52 connects to crank 54 and link 58 reacts against rod 30 causing the door to slide easily LEFT or RIGHT. Crank 54 is also acted upon by gas strut 90 which tends to move the door to the RIGHT thereby pushing the door into the door slot. A conventional door closer 92 is mounted inside the safe on the roof as shown.

The cranks movement in response to the force of the gas strut is resisted by a rod 94 which rises and falls in collar 96 under the influence of rigid connector 98 and bell crank 100. Rod 94 describes an arc when the door 16 opens and is prevented from rising and imparting the force of the gas strut to the door by contact with the underside of arcuate stop 102. The stop is stationary and extends from frame hinge 22. When the door closer swings the door closed and the door lands on the closing surface of style 4, rod 94 reaches the end of the stop and suddenly rises under the force of the gas strut. The handle is subjected to a force sliding the door to the RIGHT and is free to move on the hinge

assembly because the latter has an offset configuration.

When closed, the end of rod 94 projects above the arcuate stop 102. Turning the handle pulls rod 94 under the stop and swinging the door open against the closer retains the rod 94 under the stop. When the handle is released, the door closer swings the door shut but the sliding motion is delayed until the door registers with the slot.

In another version, the gas strut drives a pair of bolts into keepers in the closer 12.

We have found the advantages of the above embodiment to be:-

1. The usual sites for the prying bar are absent in the construction.

2. No multiple entry bolts are necessary.

3. Doors of considerable mass are easily moved.

4. The full width of the door is available.

It is to be understood that the word "comprising" as used throughout the specification is to be interpreted in its inclusive form, ie. use of the word "comprising" does not exclude the addition of other elements.

It is to be understood that various modifications of and/or additions to the invention can be made without departing from the basic nature of the invention. These modifications and/or additions are therefore considered to fall within the scope of the invention.